

# IRS News Release

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## **IRS Has \$2.2 Billion for People Who Have Not Filed a 2003 Tax Return**

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WASHINGTON — Unclaimed refunds totaling more than \$2.2 billion are awaiting about 1.8 million people who failed to file a federal income tax return for 2003, the Internal Revenue Service announced today. However, in order to collect the money, a return for 2003 must be filed with an IRS office no later than Tuesday, April 17, 2007.

The IRS estimates that half of those who could claim refunds would receive more than \$611. In some cases, individuals had taxes withheld from their wages, or made payments against their taxes out of self-employed earnings, but had too little income to require filing a tax return. Some taxpayers may also be eligible for the refundable Earned Income Tax Credit.

“Everybody who needs to should file their tax return. But you simply can’t get the money we owe you unless you file a return,” said IRS Commissioner Mark W. Everson.

In cases where a return was not filed, the law provides most taxpayers with a three-year window of opportunity for claiming a refund. If no return is filed to claim the refund within three years, the money becomes property of the U.S. Treasury. For 2003 returns, the window closes on April 17, 2007. The law requires that the return be properly addressed, postmarked and mailed by that date. There is no penalty assessed by the IRS for filing a late return qualifying for a refund.

The IRS reminds taxpayers seeking a 2003 refund that their checks will be held if they have not filed tax returns for 2004 or 2005. In addition, the refund will be applied to any amounts still owed to the IRS and may be used to satisfy unpaid child support or past due federal debts such as student loans.

By failing to file a return, individuals stand to lose more than refunds of taxes withheld or paid during 2003. Many low-income workers may not have claimed the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Although eligible taxpayers may get a refund when their EITC is more than what they owe in tax, those who file returns more than three years late would be able only to apply it toward the taxes they owe (if any). They would not be able to receive a refund if the credit exceeded their tax.

Generally, unmarried individuals qualified for the EITC if in 2003 they earned less than \$33,692 and had more than one qualifying child living with them, earned less than \$29,666 with one

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qualifying child, or earned less than \$11,230 and had no qualifying child. Limits are slightly higher for married individuals filing jointly.

Current and prior year tax forms and instructions are available on the Forms and Publications page of the IRS Web site at [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov) or by calling 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676). Information about the Earned Income Tax Credit and how to claim it is also available on [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov). Taxpayers who need help also can call the toll-free IRS help line at 1-800-829-1040.

A state-by-state breakdown of estimates for individuals who failed to file a 2003 return with a refund due is attached.

## INDIVIDUALS WHO FAILED TO FILE A 2003 RETURN WITH AN ESTIMATED REFUND

	<u>Individuals</u>	<u>Median Refund*</u>	<u>Total Refunds (\$000)*</u>
Alabama	27,100	\$600	\$27,583
Alaska	8,900	\$669	\$12,389
Arizona	40,700	\$503	\$41,217
Arkansas	14,800	\$557	\$13,715
California	200,000	\$556	\$236,340
Colorado	30,200	\$561	\$36,152
Connecticut	20,500	\$698	\$31,552
Delaware	6,500	\$624	\$7,564
District of Columbia	7,100	\$590	\$8,755
Florida	123,500	\$637	\$188,087
Georgia	58,800	\$569	\$64,471
Hawaii	12,500	\$661	\$16,280
Idaho	6,600	\$487	\$5,736
Illinois	67,700	\$675	\$96,271
Indiana	33,700	\$647	\$38,043
Iowa	15,500	\$590	\$15,273
Kansas	17,400	\$579	\$16,954
Kentucky	18,500	\$606	\$18,824
Louisiana	27,800	\$610	\$33,041
Maine	6,600	\$544	\$8,391
Maryland	41,300	\$621	\$55,111
Massachusetts	40,800	\$671	\$69,127
Michigan	67,100	\$650	\$79,142
Minnesota	25,500	\$562	\$27,760
Mississippi	14,200	\$527	\$12,723
Missouri	33,600	\$569	\$32,804
Montana	4,800	\$545	\$4,414
Nebraska	8,000	\$567	\$7,983
Nevada	22,100	\$561	\$26,912
New Hampshire	7,100	\$709	\$9,861
New Jersey	56,500	\$690	\$85,177
New Mexico	11,700	\$551	\$11,600
New York	110,600	\$681	\$172,922
North Carolina	48,100	\$530	\$48,350
North Dakota	2,300	\$558	\$2,514
Ohio	57,600	\$593	\$61,745
Oklahoma	22,400	\$564	\$22,389
Oregon	27,200	\$492	\$24,669
Pennsylvania	61,300	\$654	\$73,843
Rhode Island	6,400	\$657	\$9,019
South Carolina	20,300	\$516	\$19,213
South Dakota	2,900	\$590	\$3,521

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Tennessee	27,600	\$600	\$30,768
Texas	136,600	\$654	\$174,428
Utah	10,000	\$502	\$10,750
Vermont	2,800	\$606	\$3,119
Virginia	53,900	\$615	\$68,074
Washington	47,900	\$644	\$62,659
West Virginia	5,500	\$637	\$6,587
Wisconsin	20,300	\$563	\$20,610
Wyoming	3,100	\$622	\$3,854
Armed Forces	9,700	\$785	\$8,447
US Possessions/Territories	100	\$569	\$153
Total	1,753,700	\$611	\$2,166,886

\*Excluding potential Earned Income Credit